

# What's New in the MPDC

JANUARY 7, 2002

## FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM EXPANDS TO INCLUDE LESS-THAN-LETHAL INCIDENTS

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*While bites by MPDC canines remain relatively low, the Department has recently implemented reforms in this area, including the adoption of the more progressive "bark and hold" policy (as opposed to "bark and bite") and the purchase and training of more than 20 new police canines.*

The Force Investigation Team (FIT) was established by Chief Ramsey in April 1999 to improve the investigation, tracking and follow-up of all instances in which Metropolitan Police officers use deadly force. Following the implementation of this and other reforms, shootings involving MPDC officers have declined by approximately three-quarters over the last few years. This week, Chief Ramsey expanded the responsibilities of FIT to include many incidents in which officers use less-than-lethal force. These

include bites by MPDC canines, use of force resulting in broken bones, loss of consciousness or hospitalization, and head strikes with impact weapons. FIT will also now investigate allegations of excessive force referred by the Office of Citizen Complaint Review and forwarded to the U.S. Attorney's Office for criminal investigation. Chief Ramsey said he is confident the expanded role for FIT will result in better investigations and improved policies and training along the entire use-of-force continuum. For more information about FIT, contact Capt. Josh Ederheimer at 727-9901. You can also view the FIT 2000 annual report at:

*For information on how citizen complaints against MPDC officers are filed and investigated, visit:*

***[mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/citizencomplaints.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/citizencomplaints.shtm)***

**[mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/fit\\_ar\\_00\\_letter.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/fit_ar_00_letter.shtm)**

## DC CRIME DECLINES SLIGHTLY IN 2001; SIXTH CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL DECREASE

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Preliminary statistics show that serious crime in DC declined for the sixth consecutive year in 2001. With last year's decrease – approximately 1 percent, according to preliminary figures – reported crime in DC has declined close to 40 percent since 1995. Preliminary figures show that both violent and property crimes declined by about 1 percent each during 2001. Among violent crimes, homicides, sexual assaults and aggravated assaults were

*DC's preliminary homicide count for 2001 was 233, a 4 percent decrease from the year 2000 total of 242. This was the District's lowest homicide total since 1987, when there were 225 murders. Read the news release at: [mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)*

*For information on recent crime trends in DC, check out the MPDC's 2000 Annual Report, available in PDF format, at:*

***[mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/2000ar\\_pdf.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/2000ar_pdf.pdf)***

lower, while robberies rose. Among property crimes, an increase in stolen autos was more than offset by reductions in burglaries, thefts and arson offenses. More complete preliminary crimes statistics for 2001, organized by police district, will be posted shortly on the MPDC Website. Final numbers will be reported to the FBI later in the year.

## TRAFFIC FATALITIES RISE SHAPRLY IN 2001; SPEEDING A FACTOR IN MAJORITY OF CASES

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*The latest figures from the MPDC's photo radar speeding reduction program show some early progress in helping to put the brakes on speeding in DC. Learn more about the program, and see the latest results, at: [mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm)*

While homicides in DC reached a 14-year low during 2001, the number of people killed in traffic crashes rose 44 percent, to 72 deaths during the year. And the dangerous trend appears to be continuing: during the first week of 2002, there were two more traffic fatalities on DC roads. As in past years, speeding was a factor in the majority of fatal crashes during 2001. Other common factors contributing to last year's traffic fatalities were alcohol, driver inattention,

pedestrian violations and, in four deaths, red-light running. To help combat unsafe driving and reduce traffic fatalities, the MPDC has initiated a number of traffic safety programs. For more information about these traffic safety efforts, call Lt. Patrick Burke at 202-727-2201, or click on:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm)

*Traffic crashes – and fatalities – involving bicyclists and pedestrians remain a concern. For a detailed analysis of this problem, see the recent study from the District Division of Transportation at: [ddot.dc.gov/news\\_room/2001/november/11\\_16\\_01pr.shtm](http://ddot.dc.gov/news_room/2001/november/11_16_01pr.shtm)*

## MPDC SEEKS TWO CIVILIAN EEO INVESTIGATORS

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The MPDC this week announced two civilian career opportunities for Equal Employment Opportunity investigators within the Office of Professional Responsibility. Primary responsibilities are to investigate a range of possible EEO complaints involving MPDC members through information collection, research, interviews and report writing. At least one year of specialized experience is required, along with a demonstrated ability to conduct complex investigations. The positions pay between \$45,629 and \$58,770 per year. For complete information about the EEO investigator positions, including details on how to apply, visit:

[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/FA\\_0208.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/FA_0208.shtm)

*The MPDC continues to seek qualified candidates for sworn officer positions. Learn about these career opportunities by calling the MPDC Recruiting Office at 1-800-99-4MPDC or 202-727-2767, or by visiting: [mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm)*

## RE-ENTRY SUNDAY KICKS OFF JANUARY 13

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On January 13, 2002, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency and its partners in the District of Columbia's faith community will join together to launch a ministry of support and assistance to offenders returning to the local community from prison. The first Re-Entry Sunday coincides with National Mentoring Month. To emphasize the value of mentoring to returning offenders, mentor recruitment is the first cooperative initiative of CSOSA and its partners in the faith community. Get more information about this new program on-line at:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/re\\_entry\\_csosa.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/re_entry_csosa.shtm)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kmorison\\_mpdc@excite.com](mailto:kmorison_mpdc@excite.com).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

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